Does he have the permission of the House for remaining absent from all the sittings of the House during the current Session?

(No hon. Member dissented)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COCONUT DEVELOPMENT BOARD

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): Madam Deputy Chairman, I move the following Motion:—

> "That in pursuance of clause (e) of sub-section (4) of section 4 of the Coconut Development Board Act, 1979 (5 of 1979) read with clause (i) of sub-rule (1) of Rule 4 of the Coconut Development Board Rules, 1981, this House do proceed to elect in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from among the Members of the House to be a Member of the Coconut Development Board."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Statement regarding the Government Business by Shrimati Margaret Alva. She is not here. तीनों मंत्री नहीं हैं आज, छुट्टी के मूड में हैं।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्रः हड़ताल में तो नहीं हैं?

उपसभापतिः कौन सी हड़ताल हो रही है?

श्री चतुरानन मिश्रः वह तो हमें नहीं पता।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Some Members are always present in the House from the Treasury Benches, whether they are made Ministers. Syed Sibtey Razi has shifted his seat to this side. Shrimati Jayanti Natarajan is sitting on my right.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Ministers are attending but non-Ministers are boycotting... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I am not a Minister.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: You are a Minister in waiting.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Tomorrow's Minister.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Madam, just count the Members.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Never mind. It is all right. Some time they would come a little late. Now, Shrimati Jayanti Natarajan.

RE. ATROCITIES AGAINST SCHEDULED CASTES AND OTHER WEAKER SECTIONS

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very grave situation that is prevailing in the Southern districts of Tamil Nadu. In Tirunelveli and VOC districts, due to a series of clashes between various sections of the people, there is a state of siege over there. Schools have been closed. People are being killed on the streets. Buses are not running. Police is completely inactive. Madam, things have been completely shut down. It is if a battle is going on in that area, in the Southern part of the country, unchecked. Madam, it all began on the 31st August, 1995 in a village called Kodiyamkulam, when over 600 police personnel entered the village ..... and attacked the innocent unarmed citizens over there. Most of the men in the village were not there. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, it is under judicial inquiry.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: I am not saying anything .... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Madam,